

Main Entry: pro·pa·gan·da

Pronunciation: "prä-p&-'gan-d&, "prO-

Function: noun

Etymology: New Latin, from Congregatio de propaganda fide Congregation for propagating the faith, organization established by Pope Gregory XV died 1623

1 capitalized : a congregation of the Roman curia having jurisdiction over missionary territories and related institutions

2 : the spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person

3 : ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause; also : a public action having such an effect

I am appalled. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media corruption. In history classes across the country children are learning how Hitler used propaganda to promote his Anti-Semitic views. I believe Sinclair Broadcasting is using a more modern version of propaganda to promote republican regime ideals.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Propaganda of any kind is designed to sway the public's opinion with one's own personal opinion. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter in our own communities.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.